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MONTHLY LETTER OF THE BUREAU OF ENTOMOLOGY UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Number 94

February, 1922

JOSEPH DANIEL MITCHELL

Hon. J. D. Mitchell, of Victoria, Texas, died, after a long illness, on February 27, at the age of 72 years. Mr. Mitchell was well known to many of the Bureau force who have worked in Texas, and was widely known in his State as a thorough naturalist. He was a man of prominence and at one time was a member of the Texas State legislature. When the headquarters of the cotton boll weevil investigation of the Bureau were installed at Victoria, Mr. Mitchell at once became of the greatest assistance to Doctor Hunter and the other men stationed there. His knowledge of cotton conditions and his keen powers of observation regarding everything in nature gave him a unique standing. Fortunately, in 1906, the Bureau was able to engage him as a special field agent, and he continued in that capacity until the passage of the Civil Service retiring act, when under the provisions of the act, his appointment was extended beyond the age of seventy for two years. He made very many important and original observations, not confining his studies to insects, but including reptiles, birds, and plants; in fact, he was probably the most thoroughly informed field naturalist in the State of Texas. He published comparatively little. He was a rare man, quite of the type of his more famous contemporaries, John Muir and John Burroughs. - L.O.H.

BEE CULTURE

E. F. Phillips, Apiculturist in Charge

James Bernard Bateman and Winifred S. Hull have been appointed temporarily to assist in the work on temperature conditions in the bee colony during the active season. Beginning February 26, temperature readings will be taken every hour night and day until the close of brood rearing next fall.

A motion picture film, "Bees: How they live and work, "taken at Somerset during last summer, was recently released by the Motion Picture Laboratory. A second reel giving beekeeping practices for a season will soon be complete.

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SOUTHERN FIELD CROP INSECT INVESTIGATIONS

J. L. Webb, Entomologist Acting in Charge

George D. Smith, for the past several years stationed at Madison, Fla., resigned January 31 to accept a position with the Florida Experiment Station.

CEREAL AND FORAGE INSECT INVESTIGATIONS

W. R. Walton, Entomologist in Charge

- W. J. Phillips, in charge of the Charlottesville, Va., laboratory, visited Washington February 28 for the purpose of consultation and discussion of plans for the possible introduction of a foreign parasite on the larger corn stalk-borer in southern Virginia. He will visit Arlington, Mass., with this in view, in the near future.
- W. R. Walton visited Boston and Arlington, Mass., February 17, in connection with the corn-borer investigations. It was decided to locate a small investigational force at Sandusky, Ohio, in the near future, and to abandon the laboratory at present located at Scotia, N. Y.

TRUCK-CROP INSECT INVESTIGATIONS

F. H. Chittenden, Entomologist in Charge

- B. L. Boyden, in charge of the sweet-potato weevil eradication work in Baker and Charlton Counties in Florida and Georgia, reports that field cleaning has been completed during the month of February and practically all the seed sweet potatoes called for have been delivered and bedded. Final inspections for the past year show forty-four infested properties now present in that area. In view of the material progress which has been made in the eradication, the inspectors are able to concentrate to a much better advantage than in previous years as also to restrict the draw and seed distribution to a greater degree than in the past. As matters now stand seed and draw distribution should be completed in April, and since the reduction in infested fields has been so great, the dangers from reinfestation through the practice of "trading potatoes" are greatly diminished.
- J. E. Graf, entomologist in charge of field control, Mexican bean beetle, has returned to Birmingham, Ala., having visited Washington for the purpose of conference with Bureau and Department officials in regard to the spring and summer work.

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W. E. Palton, Entomologist in Charge

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- J. E. Graf and N. F. Howard of the Birmingham, Ala., office attended the meeting of the Cotton States' Entomologists at Atlanta, Ga., during the latter part of February.
- J. R. Douglass, scientific assistant, on the force of N. F. Howard, Birmingham, Ala., has resigned to take up vocational training in entomology at Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.

Troy Thompson, who for a number of years has been employed on county agent work in Mississippi, has been appointed as temporary field assistant on the force of K. L. Cockerham, Biloxi, Miss., and has been stationed at Van Cleave, Miss., to assist in the eradication of the sweet-potato weevil in that vicinity.

- Otto D. Link, who was employed with this branch during the season of 1918 and 1919 as inspector, has been temporarily appointed as field assistant on the force of B. L. Boyden, Daytona, Fla., and has been stationed at Macclenny, Fla., to assist in the eradication of the sweet-potato weevil in that vicinity.
- W. E. Hinds, entomologist of the Alabama Experiment Station, Auburn, Ala., visited the Bureau during the latter part of February.
- L. W. Brannon, D. M. Dowdell, Jr., and H. B. Lancaster have received probationary appointments as junior entomologists. They were formerly employed in the capacity of field assistants on the force of N. F. Howard, specialist in charge of research, Mexican bean beetle, Birmingham, Ala.

LIBRARY

Mabel Colcord, Librarian

New Books

- Albertson, G. W. A morphological study and comparison of the mouth parts of some Hymenoptera. 59 p. Washington, D. C., 1921. (Dissertation submitted to the faculty of sciences of the Catholic University of America.)
- Bouvier, E. L. The psychic life of insects. Translated by L. O. Howard. 377 p., illus. New York, The Century Co., 1922.
- Boving, A. G. The larvae and pupae of the social beetles Coccidotrophus socialis (Schwarz and Barber) and Funausibius wheeleri (Schwarz and Barber) with remarks on the taxonomy of the family Cucujidae.

 Zoologica (N. Y. Zool, Soc.), v. 3, no. 7, p. 197-224, illus. 1921.
- Buchanan, R. E. Agricultural and industrial bacteriology. 408 p. 8°.
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- Catoni, L. A. Dos plagas del algodon que no queremos en Puerto Rico. 9 p. (Porto Rico Dept. Agr. Insular Station Circ. 41, 1921.)
- Caullery, Maurice Le parasitisme et la symbiose. 400 p., illus. Paris, Octave Doin, 1922. (Half-title: Encyclopedie scientifique... Bibliothèque de biologie generale.) Bibliographie, p. 357-387.
- Cole, F. R., and Lovett, A. L. An annotated list of the Diptera (flies) of Oregon. (Proc. California Acad. Sci., ser. 4, v. 11, no. 15, p. 197-344, illus. Dec. 14, 1921.)
- Dengg, Otto. Grosse illustrierte bienenflora Mitteleuropas. pt. 1. illus., col. plate. 8°. Berlin, Fritz Pfenningstorff, 1919. (Der Bibliothek des Bienwirthes VI.)
- Feytaud, Jean. Une societe communiste dans une souche de pin. La cite des termites moeurs sociales du termite lucifuge ses ravages sa destruction. 134 p., illus. Paris, Librairie Lhome; Bordeaux, Librairie Feret et fils, 1921.
- Harshberger, J. W. Mycology and plant pathology. Philadelphia, P. Blakiston's Son and Co., 1922. (Contains bibliographies.)
- Hill, G. F. The life-history of Euthyrrhinus meditabundus Fabr., an important weevil pest of mango trees in Australia. (Bulletin of Ent. Research, v. 12, pt. 1, p. 63-66, pl. III, June 1921.)
- Hiss, P. H., and Zinsser, Hans. A text book of bacteriology. 5th ed. 1191 p., illus. 5°. New York and London, D. Appleton and Co., 1922. Bibliographic footnotes.
- Isle of Wight disease in hive bees. (Trans. Foyal Soc. Edinburgh, v. 52, pt. 4, 1921. 1. The etiology of the disease. John Rennie, Philip Bruce White and Elsie J. Harvey, p. 737-754, 1 pl. 2. The pathology of Isle of Wight disease in hive bees. Philip Bruce White, p. 755-764, 1 pl. 3. Isle of Wight disease in hive bees Experiments on infection with Tarsonemus woodi. Elsie J. Harvey, p. 765-767. 4. Isle of Wight disease in hive bees. Acarine disease: the organism associated with the disease Tarsonemus woodi, n. sp. John Rennie, p. 768-780, illus. 1 pl.
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 53 p. Trivandrum, 1921.
- Rosenau, M. J. Preventive medicine and hygiene... 4th ed. 1567 p., illus., fold. tab., diagrs. New York and London, 1921. References at ends of most of the sections.
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- Wheeler, W. M. A study of some social beetles in British Guiana and of their relations to the ant plant Tachigalia. Zoologica (N. Y. Zool. Soc.) v. 3, no. 3, p. 35-136, illus. Dec. 24, 1921. Bibliography, p. 119-126.)

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